

Claims:

1. Apparatus for adjusting the maximum bit-rate of a Digital Subscriber Line, comprising:
 - controllers for each of said Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs) for limiting the bit-rate for a corresponding DSL;
 - each of said controllers comprising means for requesting a bit-rate for a DSL controlled by said controller;
 - processor means for storing and analyzing bit-rates for active DSLs in a binder group;
 - said processor means programmed to detect if bit-rates for all DSL(s) in said binder group correspond to an unacceptable level of cross-talk;
 - responsive to detection of an unacceptable level of cross-talk, reducing the allowable bit-rate of the one or more active DSL(s) of said binder group to lower the cross-talk level to an acceptable upper limit.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said unacceptable level is below an upper limit wherein an additional line can become active without exceeding said upper limit.

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3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein if bit-rates for all DSL(s) in said binder group are above said unacceptable level, but below said maximum level, the allowable bit-rate of one or more active DSL(s) of said binder group is reduced.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein if the allowable bit-rate of an active DSL is reduced so that said processor means detect bit-rates for all DSL(s) in said binder group corresponding to a value less than said unacceptable level of cross-talk, increasing the allowable bit-rate of one or more active DSL(s) to raise the bit-rate for all DSL(s) in said binder group towards said unacceptable level of cross-talk.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said unacceptable level is adjusted upward if surrounding binder groups have a level of cross-talk substantially less than an unacceptable level for said surrounding binder groups.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said processor means are programmed to perform the detection step at intervals sufficiently frequent to minimize the probability of exceeding an allowable error rate.